



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS) AWARENESS MONTH
May 2004

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal neuromuscular disorder that occurs when motor nerve cells cease to function and die, resulting in the loss of voluntary muscle control; and

WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between the ages of 40 to 70 years, with the peak age about 55 years, and affects men two to three times more often than women; and

WHEREAS, each year, more than 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed nationwide, and on average, survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, prevention or cure; and

WHEREAS, patients and families throughout North Dakota are working with the National ALS Association to increase awareness of the disease and the issues confronting those who are affected, and recognize the importance of the research being conducted to find a treatment, and eventually, a cure; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 2004, **AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS) AWARENESS MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

Attest:

/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State